

**From:** Cheng, Gloria (DPH)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2010 2:30 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Beverly (DPH); Belanger, Peter (DPH); BPHC Em Prep Director; Brown, Catherine (DPH); Calogero, Dina (DPH); Capps, Elizabeth (DPH); Carter, Deborah (DPH); Cheng, Gloria (DPH); Church, Daniel (DPH); Clark, Mary (DPH); Clarke, Roberta (DPH); Conley, Caryn (DPH); Connolly, Lawrence; Crowell, Danielle (DPH); DeMaria, Alfred (DPH); DiNatale, Margaret (DPH); Elvin, Paul (DPH); EMS liaison BRIC; Feeney, Mike (DPH); Gauthier, Cheryl (DPH); Gillis, John (DPH); Gordon, Gideon; Greer, Garry (DPH); Hall, Joshua (DPH); Han, Linda (DPH); Hennigan, Scott (DPH); Hussin, Ayman (DPH); Jenner, Jennifer (DPH); Joshi, Archana (DPH); Kane01, Peter (DPH); Kludt, Patricia (DPH); Konomi, Raimond (DPH); Krumholz, Glenn (DPH); LeClair, Erika (DPH); Madoff, Larry (DPH); Nassif, Julianne (DPH); Noddin, Linwood (DPH); Orsini, Olivia (DPH); Riggs, Ambryce (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH); Serrallier, Elizabeth (DPH); Servizio, Paul (DPH); Smole, Sandra (DPH); Stiles, Tracy (DPH); Stone, Samantha (DPH); Swanson, Tanya (DPH); Szymczak, Elizabeth (DPH); Condon, Cynthia (DPH); cynthia.condon@state.ma.us  
**Subject:** Agenda Items for August 3, 2010 BT/CT Meeting + Minutes for 07/20/2010  
**Attachments:** Deb.Carter.Handout.7202010.jpg

Dear All,

Thanks to all those who helped to create a precise and detailed minutes, I am happy to present to you the final product below.

For the next BT/CT Meeting scheduled for August 3, 2010, please email me with your agenda items before this Friday July 30, 2010.

Thank you all for your partnership!

Best regards,

Gloria

BT/CT Meeting Minutes		MA Department of Public Health		
		Bureau of Laboratory Sciences		
Date:	July 20, 2010			
Start Time:	10:05 AM	End Time:	11:05 AM	
Location:	William A. Hinton State Lab	Room:	133	
Attendees:				
Paul Servizio, John Gillis, Tracy Stiles, Emily Harvey, Glenn Krumholz, Cindy Condon, Cheryl Gauthier, Scott Hennigan, Julie Nassif, Jennifer Jenner, Deborah Carter, Gloria Cheng, Elizabeth Capps.				
Recorded by:	Gloria Cheng			
Notes:	Special Announcement:			
	(1) For future BT/CT Meeting Agenda issues, please contact Gloria Cheng.			
	(2) For future BT/CT Meeting Minutes, responsibility will be rotated.			
<b>Minutes</b>				
Agenda item:	The "Train the Trainer" Workshop	Presenter:	Deb Carter	
Discussion:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deb attended the workshop in Seattle. 18 total participants.</li> <li>- Wet workshop with prototype for the Sentinel Labs. Will customize for MA prior to implementation.</li> <li>- Discussed safety implications of handling suspected pathogenic organisms in clinical specimens and isolates, because of the tricky nature of questionable purity and reactivity of the samples.</li> <li>- Will teach trigger point to Sentinel Labs: when to stop working on bench top and to use BSC instead.</li> <li>- Learned how to teach adult learners using ADDIE (Analyze, Design, Develop, Implement, &amp; Evaluate).</li> <li>- Planning to get updated list of the Sentinel Labs, to learn about their needs and expectations.</li> <li>- Answered questions about automated assays used in the past: Talked about its limitations, and trigger points of using BSC for slow growers.</li> <li>- Answered question about the availability of BSC: (1) Most places have at least 1 BSC. (2) Trigger point for not working with certain cultures if no BSC is available.</li> </ul>				
Conclusions:	(1) Have much better idea now about what was hired to do. (2) Handout attached.			
Action items	Person responsible	Target Date		
✓ Review and update Sentinel Lab list	Deb Carter	open		
✓ Adapt workshop prototype for the Sentinel Labs.	Deb Carter	open		
✓				
✓				
Agenda item:	BT Lab Environmental Surveillance	Presenter:	Cheryl Gauthier	
Discussion:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purpose is to monitor contamination of bioterrorism agents in the lab (1) to ensure safety of visitors, and (2) to provide forensic proof of no cross contamination.</li> <li>- No previously existed procedure in lab. Contacted few LRN labs with procedures for information. Drafted SOP. Approved in February 2009.</li> <li>- This month was the first time the surveillance was performed: Collected 18 swab samples from various locations in the lab: such as doorknobs, biosafety cabinets, counter tops... Swab areas mapped. There was no extra cleaning before the test to see if cleaning procedures in place were acceptable.</li> <li>- No bioterrorism species found; but 5 had growth including incubator, refrigerator, countertop, ELISA plate shaker, and Victor 3 Platform.</li> <li>- Surprised with Victor 3 Platform which has to be cleaned with 95% ethanol before each use.</li> <li>- Tested for Ricin toxin and SEB. SEB was tested even though we don't test for SEB very often in order</li> </ul>				

to obtain a SEB baseline.

- Answered question about frequency of the practice: Depend upon workload, varied from quarterly, every 6 months, to once a year. Will adopt 6 month schedule.
- Answered question about if considering adding molecular component: The BT lab is not considered a sterile or "clean lab" and the lab is not cleaned with DNA-away to remove DNA.
- Answered question about swab method: The SOP stated to swab an 8 x 8 area, but that would be difficult with doorknobs and other small areas. Instead a 4 x 4 area was swabbed
- Answered question regarding future practice based upon the test results: (1) Will clean more in certain areas, such as plate shaker and Victor 3 Platform; (2) Will test different areas in December; (3) Will sit down to discuss further improvement plan(s).

Conclusions: Good project. Happy with the results. Will further compile results.

Action items	Person responsible	Target Date
✓ Second test in December for different areas	Cheryl Gauthier	12/2010
✓ Further compile results and discuss improvement plan	Cheryl Gauthier	open
✓ More cleaning	BT Staff	open
✓		

Agenda item: CDC Cyanide Surge Capacity Exercise      Presenter: Julie Nassif

Discussion:

- Call received Monday morning at 8 from CDC. Informed a case of food poisoning at a military base in Atlanta. Symptoms of shortness of breath, dizziness, & headache. Undisclosed number of death. Asked to start blood test for cyanide the next day.
- 300 samples received Tuesday at 10 am.
- Test performance was time based: From the moment of sample receiving to when reported last batch data.
- Operating on 24/7 mode: 12 hour shift with 7 staff plus Julie.
- Staffing issue: Not everyone can do all functions. Additional cross training recommended.
- Reported last batch Saturday night at 8:30.
- Slower method with problem of syringe clogging due to dirtier samples.
- Helpful CDC implementation of daily conference call for all labs to discuss progress and problems.
- As of yesterday, all 10 labs completed exercise except California and Michigan.
- California had Friday closing issue and instrument problems.
- Michigan had power and instrument failure issues. Reported only 1 batch of 30 samples so far. Under 24/7.
- In a real event, CDC may divert Michigan's samples.
- Heard another round of 6 clinical cyanide exercise within 30 days for cross network agencies.
- Answered question about no problems in real time reporting this time. Glad to use this opportunity to test out interface from different instrument with LIMS.

Conclusions: Identified some areas for improvement.

Action items	Person responsible	Target Date
✓ Work out a more efficient plan to fully utilize staffs on a 24/7 mode	Julie Nassif	open
✓		
✓		
✓		

Agenda item: FERN National Meeting      Presenter: Tracy Stiles; Paul Servizio

Discussion:

- About 400 people from different states attended – from novice to veteran.
- Topic covered from basic 101s to advanced procedures and methods.
- Format ranged from regional breakouts to topic specific groups.
- First time for Tracy: Basic information gathering.
- From a chemist's aspect, Paul was more into method development: comparing the differences in our LRN methods with the FERN methods as for mono-fluoroacetate in our metabolic toxin screen vs fluoroacetamide substance in the FERN Method. Looked into differences in methods, such as using GC/MS vs LC/MS, as well as different derivatization agents used to improve the FERN original GC-MS methods. A recent tampering of researchers' coffee with sodium azide prompted an investigation of azide in this matrix using the SPME GC-MS FERN method.
- Focus was to push for more rigorous PT, such as to replace the current voluntary PT program.
- Talked about on-going testing for melamine and its history.
- Working towards better cohesion among networks to allow method transfer across networks.
- Talked about method for oil in the gulf.
- APHL working group for new method is meeting every 2 weeks by conference call to improve method for detecting oil contamination in food. Current 1980's method analyzes 20 samples per week per lab.

Conclusions: Huge meeting with many topics to choose from. Good opportunity to learn a lot & who is involved.

Action items	Person responsible	Target Date
✓		
✓		
✓		
✓		

Agenda item: Section Updates - Epidemiology      Presenter: Emily Harvey

Discussion:

No updates.

Conclusions:

Action items	Person responsible	Target Date
✓		
✓		

✓			
✓			
<b>Agenda item:</b> Section Updates – Molecular Diagnostic and Virology <b>Presenter:</b> Glenn Krumholz & Scott Hennigan			
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reported transition to faster, more modern, &amp; real time PCR to replace an almost 10 year-old machine. Helpful for fewer problems and less maintenance calls.</li> <li>- Aiming for fewer platforms with more applications.</li> <li>- Picking up West Nile, and EEE from mosquitoes, typical for the season.</li> </ul>			
<b>Conclusions:</b>			
<b>Action items</b>		<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
✓			
✓			
✓			
✓			
<b>Agenda item:</b> Section Updates – BT Lab <b>Presenter:</b> Cheryl Gauthier			
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Added Cindy Condon to the BT list. She has been cross-trained on B. anthracis and TRF and is the new TRF guru. Will be cross trained on other agents. Welcome to the team.</li> <li>- Last week being contacted by UMass Medical Center. A 77 year old woman had lesion on hand picked up potentially anthrax from organic Peru yarn she was knitting with. Culture negative but patient was on antibiotics for 24 hours prior to collection. Currently testing yarns cut from the knitted sweater. Will read the plate together after the meeting as a team.</li> <li>- Discussed who should be contacted as the possible regulatory agency if the yarn turns out positive.</li> <li>- Patient has been treated and discharged.</li> </ul>			
<b>Conclusions:</b>			
<b>Action items</b>		<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
✓ Read the plate after the meeting together as a team.	Cheryl Gauthier	7/20/10	
✓ Regulatory follow up if yarn test positive.	Epi Lab		
✓			
✓			
<b>Agenda item:</b> Updates – White Powder Transport Issue <b>Presenter:</b> Julie Nassif			
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contacted Jim Connolly, Acting Lab Director for State Police Lab, who will talk to Colonel Matthews to find out who will be the appropriate person to contact for future transport handling policy.</li> <li>- Discussed responsible party for transport delivery: state trooper, responding police department (state or Wakefield), incident commander at site, local fire department. Commander usually calls Hazmat, but the Hazmat doesn't transport samples. Have to figure out the last piece.</li> </ul>			
<b>Conclusions:</b>			
<b>Action items</b>		<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
✓ Figure out responsible party for transport delivery.	Julie Nassif and Cheryl Gauthier		
✓			
✓			
✓			
<b>Agenda item:</b> Section Updates - Bacteriology <b>Presenter:</b> Tracy Stiles			
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Next week starts the 4<sup>th</sup> and hopefully the final FERN Triage Exercise.</li> <li>- 5 samples of some food that supposedly have been contaminated with 1 of 7 organisms or 1 of 3-ish toxins.</li> <li>- First time real time reporting.</li> <li>- Will receive samples on Tuesday. Testing starts on Wednesday.</li> <li>- May involve Cheryl's group for confirmation assistance.</li> <li>- Lots of ELISA, PCR, Reporting. Looking for everything, not just for few targets, because of the nature of foods.</li> <li>- Every other week live conference with Triage Group scheduled for this Thursday. Will go over protocols, details, and reporting procedure. Email or phone call as possible reporting mechanisms.</li> <li>- Most updated new draft procedure came out last Friday.</li> </ul>			
<b>Conclusions:</b> Will be very busy next week with the exercise.			
<b>Action items</b>		<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
✓			
✓			
✓			
✓			
<b><i>Other Information</i></b>			
<b>Special notes:</b>			
Handout from Deb Carter is attached.			

